



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

HAMILTON COUNTY

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

and

PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



HAMILTON COUNTY
Regional
Planning
Commission



HAMILTON COUNTY
Planning
Partnership



Director's Message



2010 was an excellent year for the Regional Planning Commission and Planning Partnership

To Those We Serve:

2010 was an excellent year for the Regional Planning Commission and Planning Partnership.

The efficiencies achieved due to the consolidation of several county Departments have resulted in a greater ability to provide more direct assistance to our jurisdiction members. We were able to expand our partnerships with critical agencies that impact planning in Hamilton County, as well as continuing to support initiatives that grew out of previous partnerships. Many agreements and alliances formed in prior years have resulted in promising efforts such as the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project, the Transportation Policy Plan, and the First Suburbs Consortium.

Planning and Zoning Commissioners, elected officials, administrators and staff from Hamilton County jurisdictions, and beyond, benefited from the free Certified Planning Commissioner's training program and the Sustainable Hamilton County Workshop Series. With the "Sustainable Hamilton County - Reinventing Our Communities" series, the Planning Partnership became "the chief convener of collaboration efforts in the region," as Dick Huddleston, first Planning Partnership Chairman, had envisioned. The sustainability series brought together funding from nine different sources and convened a team from sixteen different organizations to organize a highly successful series of events that brought in nationally recognized speakers, that was free and open to the public, and that provided members of our community much needed information, resources, and networking opportunities.

In addition, let me remind you that the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission continues to offer services such as technical assistance to local jurisdictions, essential data for effective decision-making, facilitation of comprehensive collaborative planning efforts, capacity building, and communications to Hamilton County communities.

As you read our annual report you will wonder why we had such a prolific year. We couldn't do it without the critical support of County Commissioners, jurisdiction members, volunteers, and our many organizational partners.

On behalf of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and The Planning Partnership Executive Committee, I invite you to read the Annual Report for 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Kinskey". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "T" and "K".

Todd Kinskey, AICP
Director of Regional Planning

This report, as well as additional information about our work and progress, is available on our web site at <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/planning.asp>

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Regional Planning Commission



HAMILTON COUNTY
Regional
Planning
Commission

Regional Planning Commission Vision

To assist Hamilton County and its communities, agencies and citizens in planning and achieving sustainable development and related community and regional goals.

Regional Planning Commission Mission

- To build planning partnerships for creating and implementing community plans in the context of the region.
- To provide data management and analysis for effective planning decision-making in Hamilton County governments.
- To promote an equitable balance of local, county and regional perspectives and interests in community planning forums.

The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) is an alliance of local planning commissions and governments that seeks to address mutual goals related to physical, economic, and social issues among the 49 communities within Hamilton County. HCRPC helps ensure that community trends are anticipated, challenges are addressed, priorities are focused, and our collective future is planned and achieved strategically.

The RPC provides advisory planning and development review services to the unincorporated areas (12 townships) of the County. It also provides similar services upon request to County municipalities that are members of the Commission and pay annual fees. The Commission's various planning activities include programs for subdivision compliance, community planning, development review and Census/data and information systems. The Commission's services are tied to annual work programs that monitor development trends, evaluate current policies, and update the Hamilton County Master Plan and related regulations for zoning, subdivision of land and traffic circulation.

The Commission is responsible for determining consistency of development proposals with adopted plans for township areas. Land use control responsibilities also include development review for consistency with zoning regulations, subdivision rules, and thoroughfare plans. Staff makes advisory zoning recommendations to the Hamilton County Rural Zoning Commission and to township and municipal zoning commissions. The RPC administers and takes final actions on land subdivision for the entire unincorporated area. It coordinates the multi-agency review of subdivision plans and ensures conformity with the County's regulations.

RPC prepares and disseminates information and maps on a variety of subjects related to planning, and this information is available for public and agency use. It maintains Census and other data on population, housing, zoning, building activity, socioeconomic development, school trends, and many physical and land use features. The staff coordinates and assigns street address numbers for the unincorporated areas and several municipalities. The Commission's staff also supports the various functions of the Rural Zoning Commission, the Planning Partnership, the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS), the First Suburbs Consortium, and other boards, committees, and task forces.

Regional Planning Commission

The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission is a seven member board. The composition of this Commission (whose members serve five-year terms) is as follows:

- Four residents of the unincorporated area of Hamilton County, who are nominated by Township Trustees and other interested parties, and appointed by the Board of County Commissioners
- One resident of a City or Village with a planning commission, who is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners
- One resident of a City or Village with a planning commission, exclusive of Cincinnati, who is elected by mail ballot of municipal planning commissions
- One resident of the City of Cincinnati appointed by the City of Cincinnati Planning Commission

Regional Planning Commissioners, 2010

- Donald Misrach
(reappointed 2006, current term expires 2011)
- Hal Franke
(reappointed 2009, current term expires 2014)
- John Linnenberg, Chair
(reappointed April 2009, current term expires 2014)
- David Okum
(re-elected 2006, current term expires 2011)
- Larry Sprague
(reappointed 2010, current term expires 2015)
- Merrie Stillpass
(appointed 2010, current term expires 2015)
- Cecil Thomas
(appointed October 2007, current term expires 2011)

Planning Commission

2010 Jurisdiction Members

Addyston Village
Amberley Village
Anderson Township
Arlington Heights Village
Blue Ash City
Cheviot City
Cincinnati City
Cleves Village
Columbia Township
Crosby Township
Deer Park City
Evendale Village
Fairfax Village
Glendale Village
Golf Manor Village
Green Township
Greenhills Village
Hamilton County Commissioners
Harrison Township
Lincoln Heights Village
Lockland Village
Madeira City
Mariemont Village
Milford City
Montgomery City
Newtown Village
North Bend Village
Springdale City
Symmes Township
Woodlawn Village
Wyoming City

Membership

Membership in the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC) is on an annual basis. In 2010, thirty-one jurisdictions were members of the HCRPC paying fees totaling \$52,943.

Membership Benefits

1. Appointment of Planning Partnership representative(s)
2. Participation in Program, Editorial, and other ad-hoc committees
3. Free Attendance to Training for Planning and Zoning Commissioners
Value: \$200 per person (5 sessions at \$40 each)
4. Planning Partnership Annual Meeting - Free attendance for your community's representative(s)
Value: \$30+ per representative
5. Up to 8 hours of complimentary technical service such as site plan review, project research or meeting facilitation
6. Increased education, networking and outreach to public, private and nonprofit organizations
7. Ability to make informed decisions by having access through the HCRPC to specialized libraries such as:
 - Planning Commissioners' Journal
 - National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - American Planning Association
 - Planning Advisory Service
 - Planning Commissioners' Journal
 - Zoning Practice
 - Ohio Economic Development Association
8. GIS mapping services
9. HCRPC is an official Census Data Users Center, part of the select group of organizations that receives released Census data first. Dedicated staff prepares customized reports for Hamilton County communities

The communities at left paid their 2010 annual dues to support planning in Hamilton County. This funding enables HCRPC staff to support local governments in a variety of programs and initiatives.

Planning Partnership

A Collaborative initiative of the HCRPC

The Planning Partnership is a collaborative initiative of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. It is an advisory board that works to harness the collective energy and vision of its members to effectively plan for the future of our county. Rather than engaging in the Planning Commission's short-range functions such as zoning reviews, the Planning Partnership takes a long-range, comprehensive approach to planning, working to build a community that works for families, for businesses and for the region. The Partnership firmly believes that collaboration is the key to a positive, competitive and successful future for Hamilton County.

Mission

To bring together public, private and civic sector organizations engaged in community planning in Hamilton County so that mutual goals related to physical, economic and social issues can be planned for comprehensively and achieved collaboratively.

Vision

All governments and planning commissions in Hamilton County:

- Work together effectively (in and adjacent to Hamilton County) to resolve issues related to growth management, land use, green space, transportation, housing, public services, utilities and other cross-jurisdictional issues
- Effectively communicate between planning commissions and planning officials at all levels and forms of government and between public, private and civic sector stakeholders
- Build consensus on a unified, comprehensive community vision for Hamilton County
- Create and implement local and countywide plans through continuous and collaborative planning relationships with planning partners in the public, private, and civic sectors
- Plan for and achieve efficient use of our physical (i.e. natural and built), economic and social resources and assets
- Determine, achieve, and sustain local goals and plans within a regional framework
- Use local authority, and government closest to the people to create and implement community based solutions to local problems
- Make informed decision through consideration of local and countywide comprehensive plans
- Use a countywide database (information system) to support the comprehensive planning needs of local and county government
- Leverage collaborative power to improve funding and policy change at all levels of government



HAMILTON COUNTY

Planning Partnership



Chairperson

Richard Finan, Municipal Rep.



Chairperson -Elect

Tracy Winkler, Township Rep.



Vice-Chairperson

Chris Bortz, City of Cincinnati Rep.

2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments



Partnerships and Forums

Sustainable Hamilton County - Reinventing Our Communities Workshop Series 2010-2011

The Sustainable Hamilton County - Reinventing Our Communities Workshop Series is the result of a process that started in 2009 with the Planning Partnership's Program Committee studying the feedback provided by Planning Partnership members through the annual survey. The response to the members' interests resulted in an ambitious program that has made the Planning Partnership the chief convener of collaboration efforts.



Leslie Oberholtzer, Scott Ball, and June Williamson



Robert Ogilvie and Alan Mallach



Michael Pagano

The program was designed as a series of workshops and a forum under the umbrella theme of "Sustainable Hamilton County - Reinventing Our Communities." The Workshops provided perspectives on sustainability from different angles: The Built Environment, Trends, and Fiscal Sustainability. The implementation of the series was possible because of (1) successful grants and contributions in excess of \$40,000, (2) financial contributions from partnering organizations, and (3) significant in-kind contributions, and (4) the ability to broker partnerships and create a collaborative environment for organizations to come together. As a result, the workshops were enhanced by the participation of speakers who are national leaders in their fields of expertise. They presented models and research that showcased, in a pragmatic way, why, what, and how to execute efficient changes to our urban environment.

Hamilton County jurisdictions, through this program, were able to get current information and increase their opportunities to meet and network with representatives from other jurisdictions as well as with countless members of organizations from the public, private, and civic sectors. These programs raised the profile and reach of the Planning Partnership, fulfilling the organization's mission, and adding value to the membership.

The Hamilton County Planning Partnership partnered with the University of Cincinnati, OKI, Hamilton County Public Health, Community Building Institute at Xavier University, Agenda 360, HOME, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Duke Energy Foundation, the Ladisla & Vilma Segoe Family Foundation, Metropolitan Sewer District, the First Suburbs Consortium, City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality, Urban Land Institute, US Green Building Council, and many others who lent in-kind support to make the workshops free and open to the public.



2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

2010 APA-OH World Town Planning Day Charrette; Amberley Village

In partnership with the Cincinnati Section of the American Planning Association - Ohio, the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission conducted the 2010 World Town Planning Day Charrette in Amberley Village on November 10, 2010. A planning charrette involves professional facilitation, and the participation of urban planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, and experts from other related fields, planning students and their instructors as well as members of the community. Working at an intense pace, teams conduct a thorough analysis and make recommendations to the community on pre-determined areas of interest. As a result of the Charrette, the Village of Amberley benefitted from an informational website, existing conditions reports and maps, and recommendations on three potential development sites within the village (Losantiville School site, the North Site, and Amberley Green), as well as recommendations addressing general connectivity issues within the village. A final report summarizing the event was prepared and presented to the Village shortly after the event.



Technical Assistance to Local Communities

First Suburbs Housing Program: Woodlawn Housing Plan

The First Suburbs Housing Program (FSHP) is an initiative of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME). The Workforce Housing Program, which began in 2007 through a grant from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, funds a Housing Planner to assess housing conditions and needs as well as to prepare housing plans for selected municipalities in first suburb communities.

Housing Plans include recommendations and tools for improving, redeveloping, and/or creating workforce housing. Workforce housing refers to single-family homes, townhouses, condominiums, starter homes, and/or apartments that are affordable to area workers, such as retail and restaurant workers, teachers, firefighters, factory workers, etc. The ultimate outcome of the housing plans are to define opportunities for working families to live affordably within the County by expanding housing options for both homeowners and renters.

In 2010 a housing plan for the Village of Woodlawn was completed. The aim of this housing study was to address current and future housing needs of the community, in line with the vision and the goals established by the community. The housing plan includes an assessment of the existing socio-demographic, housing conditions, and housing market for the Village. A windshield study of the target areas was conducted as part of the study to identify and address residential target areas for redevelopment opportunities in the Joliet Residential Neighborhood, Mayview Forest Residential Neighborhood, Leslie/McLean Residential Neighborhood, and Wayne Residential Neighborhood. The plan also includes a brief analysis of the Village's economic conditions and status of the business district and makes minor recommendations for improvement.



2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments



Land Use Plan Update: Green Township

Green Township, one of the few communities in Hamilton county that shows positive population growth in the last decade according to the 2010 Census, is doing its part to plan for the future. In a process that began in January 2010, facilitated by staff of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, the community engaged its residents in the review of the Township's Land Use Plan. The most intense (retail, office, high density residential) development has occurred traditionally along four major commercial corridors: Harrison Avenue, Bridgetown Road, North Bend/Cheviot Road, and Glenway Avenue. The remainder of the township is mainly residential. The revised plan makes provisions for Harrison Avenue and Bridgetown Road to reflect the township's vision for major retail and office uses, and for clearer standards to promote a more cohesive development pattern. The Green Township Land Use Plan Update - 2010 was adopted by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission in June 2010 and will be used as a guide for future development and redevelopment in the township.

Essential Data for Effective Decision Making

CAGIS Support

Hamilton County is a consortium member to the Cincinnati Area Geographic System (CAGIS). Regional Planning receives notifications of new roadways, zone changes, jurisdiction annexation changes, and School District and school changes - among other information - that require updates in the CAGIS database. Using the CAGIS database, HCRPC seeks to assist individual communities and to address mutual goals related to physical, economic, and social issues among the 49 communities within Hamilton County. Technical support for communities includes geographic mapping and analysis, census analysis and reports, database design and management, and more.

Library of Plans and Planning Documents

The Hamilton County Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission library is a specialized reference resource that includes plans and studies for this region. In addition, the HCRPC subscribes to several professional organizations such as the Planning Advisory Service, Ohio Economic Development Association, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation which enhance the ability to tap into additional research resources.

2010 Complete Count Census Preparation

The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission is a Repository Center for the U.S. Census Bureau. As April 2010 approached, our office continued to prepare for a complete and accurate Census count. Specifically, we targeted tracts with low 2000 Census mail-in response rates and strategized with the Hamilton County Complete Count Committee. The 2010 Boundary Validation Program reviewed every jurisdiction's boundaries for accuracy utilizing the County's mapping system. Based on our office familiarity with the area, over thirty changes to Census tracts, block Groups and census designated places were proposed to the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). Tracts and block groups that contained too much population during the year 2000 were split along logical boundaries so statistical

2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

comparisons between the years 2000 and 2010 can be made. Tracts and block groups that contained too few people for appropriate sample sizes were merged together. So decennial comparisons can be made, special attention was given to not unnecessarily adjust tract and block group boundaries. Further, our office worked with the City of Cincinnati where block changes had to be made to align with the boundaries of the city's neighborhoods. Several new census designated places were created in the townships. These newly created areas, such as Miamitown and Camp Dennison, were created to track demographic changes as these are well known areas with unique identities and character.

Comprehensive and Collaborative Planning

Transportation Policy Plan

The Transportation Policy Plan is a comprehensive policy statement on transportation for the county and its departments that was developed by a representative group of stakeholders that included representatives from townships, municipalities, the City of Cincinnati, County Engineer's Office, Port Authority, University of Cincinnati, OKI, Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce, among others. The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Transportation Policy Plan in March 2010.

Unified Building Permit Application Project

As a follow-up to the Code Enforcement grant awarded from the Ohio Department of Development in 2008, the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project (GCEP) sought to develop a tangible outcome of the grant that would benefit Hamilton County communities as well as foster shared services. GCEP directed Management Partners to develop a unified building permit application that could be utilized for all permitting authorities in Hamilton County. At the request of Management Partners, the Planning Partnership served as the convener for this effort.

Management Partners first gauged the level of interest from the various communities. After collecting the 35 different permit application forms, they developed a consolidated form containing the common and unique components of the various forms. Further consultation with the twelve participating communities revealed a strong desire for utilizing an internet based solution to help customers navigate the development process. While common forms could be helpful, they felt that a single web portal directing customers to each community and/or permitting agency would be more effective for the customer. It is anticipated that a development web portal will be introduced in 2011.

First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio

First Suburbs Consortium (FSC) focused on legislative issues in 2010. Some important bills moved through the General Assembly last year; whenever they could, FSC promoted different issues to its membership, contacted legislators, and communicated their views. FSC was especially pleased that new landbanking laws were adopted giving communities power to effectively deal with vacant and abandoned properties. FSC representatives and staff are contributing to the Hamilton County Land Bank working group and hope to have the program running in the first half of 2011.



HAMILTON COUNTY

First
Suburbs
Consortium

2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

In previous years, FSC worked to communicate with legislators in Columbus and hosted various meetings and luncheons. In 2010 the focus was on working with our legislative delegates here in Hamilton County by inviting them to membership meetings, and bringing up first suburb issues in the context of other associations like the Municipal League.

FSC continued to support and help fund local planning initiatives in 2010. The Sustainable Hamilton County workshop series, and Planning & Zoning Commissioners Training series were two such events.

Reducing membership dues helped keep FSC membership stable in 2010. However, several member communities no longer participate at the level they once did. FSC recognizes the need to communicate better with its membership, and ensure that the organization has tangible benefits for communities that join.

Looking into 2011, FSC has some concerns with the change in Ohio's administration and the abolishment of the Ohio Department of Development. This office had been a key contact point for FSC in Columbus. Budget concerns are looming as well, and FSC is very concerned with potential reductions to the Local Government Fund and the abolishment of the Ohio Estate Tax.



To advance the practices of green infrastructure and to leverage this opportunity into expanded community redevelopment.

Communities of the Future and Project Groundwork

Annually, about 14 billion gallons of stormwater and raw sewage from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) enter the Cincinnati community's local waterways. In fact, Hamilton County is among the top five locations in the nation for CSOs. To resolve this public health and environmental issue, the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) has embarked on the largest public works project in the history of Cincinnati. Called Project Groundwork, this multi-year and multi-billion dollar initiative includes hundreds of sewer improvements and stormwater control projects. Project Groundwork focuses on sustainable solutions to CSOs including both "green infrastructure" (green roofs, bioswales, etc.) and "gray infrastructure" (new treatment facilities, underground storage).

Recognizing the importance of MSD's integrated watershed approach to sewershed planning, the Communities of the Future Advisory Committee (CFAC) was established to advance the practices of green infrastructure and to leverage this opportunity into expanded community redevelopment. This advisory committee is a panel of experts from both public and private agencies with experience and resources for solving issues related to stormwater, community development and sustainability planning. Hamilton County Regional Planning has assisted MSD with the planning, facilitation and documentation of these quarterly CFAC meetings. The primary discussion topics for CFAC meetings are centered on policy development, economic development, and community education and engagement strategies.

In the year 2011, the CFAC will continue planning for the Lick Run Watershed and begin preparations for community engagement efforts in other CSO watersheds.

2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

Hamilton County Energy Efficiency & Conservation Programs

Seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that affect climate change, while promoting energy efficiency, Hamilton County has taken the lead in several projects: (1) Energy Performance Contract (EPC) Project, (2) Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA) energy retrofits in Hamilton County, (3) Audit, evaluation, and recommendations for enabling energy efficiency improvements of the County's building and zoning regulations, and (4) a workforce development program for minorities and or women to be trained as energy auditors.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Hamilton County was awarded a total of \$4,841,600 for its EECBG Formula Grant. In January 2010, the Hamilton County Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG-Formula) was initiated. A major part of the grant is the Energy Performance Contract (EPC) Project. Hamilton County and thirteen jurisdictions will participate in the EPC Project. A team of Ameresco and ThermalTech will complete audits of governmental buildings, identify and evaluate energy-saving opportunities, develop engineering designs and specifications, manage the project from design to installation to monitoring, arrange for financing, train building staff and provide ongoing maintenance services and guarantee that energy cost savings will cover all project costs.

The EECBG grant also supports the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA) to implement its energy efficiency upgrade programs that offers energy audits, retrofit services, education and innovative financing to residences, small businesses and non-profits in Hamilton County.

Hamilton County has signed a contract with Clarion Associates LLC to evaluate and recommend changes for the County's building and zoning regulations for enabling energy efficiency improvements. Recommendations from this project will be presented at a workshop for Hamilton County jurisdictions in the latter part of 2011.

A contract will be signed with the Workforce Development Center of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College for training 20 minority and/or women students in the Building Performance Institute (BPI) Building Analyst I Certification Training for Home Energy Auditor. This first class of students should complete training classes and have taken the BPI Certification test by the summer of 2011.

Hamilton County Land Bank

In 2010, the Ohio General Assembly passed HB 313 which authorized the formation of County Land Reutilization Corporations (CLRC or "Landbank") as a means of more efficiently allowing vacant and abandoned properties to be acquired and returned to productive community use. Under HB 313, the Board of County Commissioners along with the County Treasurer play an integral role in the establishment of a CLRC. The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners enlisted County Administration and HCRPC to provide them with the necessary information to move forward with the establishment a landbank.

Energy Performance Contract Project Communities (EPC)

Village of Addyston
Amberley Village
City of Blue Ash
City of Cheviot
Delhi Township
Village of Fairfax
City of Forest Park
Village of Golf Manor
Village of Lockland
City of Norwood
City of St. Bernard
Symmes Township
City of Wyoming

2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

The Regional Planning Commission collaborated with employees from County Administration, County Treasurer, County Prosecutor and the City of Cincinnati Solicitor's Office to develop a policy paper that outlined the breadth of the vacancy and foreclosure problem and provided a detailed analysis of HB 313. This paper analyzed the key components of the legislation, the necessary steps to implement a landbank and the various funding options permitted by the bill. Research included interviews and site visits to Cleveland to observe the operations of the Cuyahoga County Landbank. Research for the Board of County Commissioners also included an implementation timeline and year one budget for the landbank.

Regional Planning Commission staff will continue to manage this effort with the anticipation that the landbank will be formally launched in 2011.

Capacity Building

2010 Training for Planning and Zoning Commissioners

The Certified Planning Commissioners' Program is designed for commissioners interested in acquiring basic knowledge to perform his/her role and to bring professionalism to their commissions.

The course reviews and reinforces basic principles of planning, zoning, legal and ethical issues, meeting management and site plan review skills through presentations, in class discussion and hands on exercises. In 2010, the Planning Partnership offered five sessions with a combined attendance of over 200 people. Fifteen commissioners completed the series and received their "Certified Planning Commissioner" certificate.

This training opportunity was possible thanks to funding provided by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, the City of Blue Ash (conference center), and the following local experts who volunteered their services as instructors: Gary Powell, attorney at law, Greg Dale, FAICP from McBride Dale Clarion, Andrea Yang attorney-at-law from Straws & Troy and Dr. Rainer Vom Hofe from the University of Cincinnati, Terrance Vanderman from the City of Wyoming, Catalina Landivar, AICP and Todd Kinskey, AICP from the Hamilton County HCRPC.

Communications and Outreach

The Planning Partnership strives to keep its members and other interested parties informed of events, resources, and issues relevant to their communities. To that effect, the Planning Partnership publishes newsletters, reports, maintains a website (www.planningpartnership.org), and uses an electronic mail communication system to provide timely information to members of our community. The Partnership routinely conducts annual surveys, and relies on evaluations from participants to different events, programs, and services in an effort to stay connected with its customer base and instill a sense of continuous improvement in the organization.

2010 Training Participants

Amberley Village
Anderson Township
City of Blue Ash
Colerain Township
City of Deer Park
City of Forest Park
Green Township
Village of Greenhills
Village of Lincoln Heights
City of Loveland
City of Silverton
City of Springdale
Sycamore Township
Symmes Township
City Trenton
City of West Carrollton

2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

Annual Meeting

The 2010 Planning Partnership Annual Meeting was held on April 19, 2010. During the meeting Senator Richard Finan, representative of the City of Evendale was elected Chair, Tracy Winkler, representative of Green Township was elected Chair-Elect, and Chris Bortz, representative of the City of Cincinnati was elected Vice-Chair. Scott Bernstein, from the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, was the keynote speaker. His presentation pointed out the inefficiencies of sprawl, how continuing with similar practices as in the recent past will deplete individuals and communities of limited financial resources. He provided examples of how concentrated development around transit centers, and one-car or no car ownership increased the ability of individuals and families to reallocate resources and build wealth by enabling them to free up money to invest in real estate. Bernstein also discussed changes in federal legislation that support this approach, including Location Efficient Mortgages. He made suggestions as to how the Cincinnati region can position itself for taking advantage of new federal dollars; specifically the Livable Communities grant being offered by HUD/DOT/EPA. He also emphasized the economic benefits of mass transit and the myths that often keep communities from pursuing it.



Scott Bernstein

Frank F. Ferris II Planning Award

The Frank F. Ferris II Planning Award was created by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission in 1995 to recognize and honor the lifelong dedication of Mr. Frank F. Ferris II to municipal, county, and regional planning activities. It is awarded annually to a local planning commission or planning committee whose efforts have contributed to the elevation of planning principles, greater awareness of the value of planning, and improved quality of life.



The 2010 recipients of the Frank F. Ferris II Planning Award were Price Hill Will and the City of Springdale.

Price Hill Will's Glenway Market Study and Redevelopment Plan, was recognized because it is an excellent example of community planning that offers a feasible plan for a catalytic improvement for the Glenway Avenue Corridor. Price Hill Will garnered broad community support and established confidence in the development sector to embrace the strategic vision and concepts to implement substantive changes in the Glenway Corridor.

Glenway Market Study and Redevelopment Plan

Representatives from Price Hill Will and KKG Studios



2010 Initiatives and Accomplishments

The City of Springdale's Tri-County Retail District Plan for Revitalization, is a planing effort that focuses on retail district repositioning strategies. These strategies align one of the largest shopping districts in the State of Ohio to cater to the current and future customer needs and become one of the premier shopping, entertainment, and restaurant destinations in the region.



The Tri-County Retail District Plan for Revitalization

Representatives from the City of Springdale, KKG Studios, and McBride Dale Clarion

Melvin D. Martin Day on April 19th To Recognize Citizens' Volunteerism and Civic Engagement

Retiring Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission member, Melvin D. Martin of the City of Madeira, was honored for his 28 years of dedicated and voluntary service to the citizens of Hamilton County at the Hamilton County Planning Partnership's annual meeting in April.

Mr. Martin was appointed to the Regional Planning Commission in September 1981 and retired in March 2010. Fellow commission member Hal Franke spoke fondly of Mr. Martin's influence and integrity during a span of time that saw tremendous growth and change in the County. Todd Kinskey, Director of Regional Planning, cited Mr. Martin's leadership during several terms as chairperson and his constructive recommendations and review of development over 28 years. "Mel" Martin always demonstrated a genuine concern for community improvement and an outstanding ability to resolve problems and development issues while achieving an equitable balance of public and private interests.

Hamilton County Commissioners officially declared April 19, 2010 "Melvin D. Martin Day" in Hamilton County.



Mel Martin, honoree and Chris Bortz, PP Vice-Chair and City of Cincinnati Rep.

2011 Outlook

Following is a list of projects and initiatives that the Regional Planning Commission and Planning Partnership will pursue/offer in 2011.

- Planning Partnership Annual meeting
- Community Planning Forum
- Certified Planning Commissioners' Program
- Newly Elected Officials Workshop
- Housing Plan - Village of Lockland
- Zoning Code Update for Greenhills
- Energy Performance Contract Implementation
- Communities for the Future/Project Groundwork Planning Support
- Unified Building Permit Application
- County Landbank Establishment
- Reinvent Our Communities: Let's Make It Happen - actionable projects:
 - Planning and Healthy Communities
 - Transportation Policy Plan Implementation

2010 Boards/Committees/Organizations

In addition to the daily work functions performed by staff of the Regional Planning Commission, the organization was also actively involved with initiatives in numerous organizations.

- Agenda 360 Transportation Council
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
- Anderson Township Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee
- CAGIS (Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System) Policy Board
- Cincinnati Section APA-Ohio, Director
- Cincinnati Zoning Board of Appeals, President
- Clean Ohio Conservation Program / Natural Resources Assistance Council
- Communities of the Future Advisory Committee (CFAC)
- CFAC-Inform & Influence Sub-Committee
- County Planning Directors Association of Ohio (CPDAO)
- Go Cincinnati
- Greater Cincinnati Commitment Alliance
- Green Partnership for Greater Cincinnati –Steering Committee
- Government Cooperation & Efficiency Project (GCEP), Executive Committee
- Hamilton County Economic Growth Cabinet
- Hamilton County Environmental Action Committee
- Hamilton County Housing Advisory Board
- Hamilton County Landbank Workgroup
- Hamilton County Urban Land Assembly Program / Brownfields Redevelopment Board
- Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities
- Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA)
- APA-Ohio, Executive Committee - Secretary
- APA-Ohio, Legislative Co-Chair
- Intermodal Coordinating Committee (ICC) at Ohio – Kentucky – Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments
- Plan Cincinnati Steering Committee
- Plan Cincinnati Workgroups – Intergovernmental Cooperation, Housing, Transportation and Transit, Health, Environment and Open Space
- Planning Advisory Committee for the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Park 150 Study and Master Plan Update
- Planning Partnership Committees: Executive, Program, Planning Commissioners' Forum, Training for Planning and Zoning Commissioners, Annual Meeting, Nominating Committee
- Queen City Bike
- Sustainable Cincinnati Leadership Group
- Sustainable Communities Federal Grant preparation committee
- Sustainable Hamilton County Planning Committee
- Techsolve Development Process Mapping/Re-engineering Task Force
- Cincinnati Form Based Code Initiative
- University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning (DAAP) Alumni Governing Board

